General Assembly

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Agenda item 106

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/62/440)*]

62/175. Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and its resolution 61/181 of 20 December 2006 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity,

Recalling also its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular the sections on transnational crime and terrorism,

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the strategy for the period 2008–2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[1] which aims, inter alia, to enhance its effectiveness and flexibility in providing technical assistance and policy services,

Recalling section XI of its resolution 61/252 of 22 December 2006, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body", where the Commission, as the principal United Nations policymaking body on crime prevention and criminal justice issues, was given the authority to approve the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, and looking forward to the outcome of the reconvened sixteenth session of the Commission, to be held on 29 and 30 November 2007,

Recalling also its resolution 61/209 of 20 December 2006, entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption",

Reaffirming its resolutions relating to the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting and facilitating the

[1] See Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12 and 2007/19.

ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[2] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[3] and all the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, including those recently entered into force,

Reaffirming also the commitments undertaken by Member States in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted on 8 September 2006,[4]

Recalling its resolution 61/180 of 20 December 2006, on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and the coordinating role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this respect,

Welcoming the joint launch of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Labour Office, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as the planned Vienna Forum, to be held from 13 to 15 February 2008, which aims to raise awareness and foster international cooperation and global partnerships to effectively address trafficking in persons, in accordance with decision 16/1 of 27 April 2007 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[5]

Taking into consideration all relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2007/20, 2007/21, 2007/22, 2007/23 and 2007/24 of 26 July 2007, and all those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation as well as the technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, promotion and reinforcement of the rule of law and reform of criminal justice institutions, including with regard to the implementation of technical assistance, in particular in Africa,

Emphasizing that its resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women has considerable implications for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and its activities,

Recalling the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[6]

Recognizing that actions against transnational organized crime and terrorism are a common and shared responsibility, and stressing the need to work collectively to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing also the need to maintain a balance in the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime between all relevant priorities identified by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

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[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[4] Resolution 60/288.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 10* (E/2007/30/Rev.1), Part One, chap. I, sect. D.

[6] Resolution 60/177, annex.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/181;[7]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices;

3. *Recognizes* the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the delivery of advisory services and assistance to requesting Member States in the areas of corruption, organized crime, money-laundering, terrorism, kidnapping, trafficking in persons, including the support and protection of victims, and international cooperation, with special emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance, as well as efforts undertaken in implementing the Programme of Action, 2006–2010, on strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa,[8] in order to reduce the impact of crime and drugs as impediments to security and development in Africa;

4. *Notes* the importance of continuing to enable Member States to strengthen their capacity in developing abilities to combat kidnapping in accordance with the United Nations Counter-Kidnapping Manual, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance and cooperation in this area, upon request by interested Member States;

5. *Invites* Member States to identify, on a continuous basis, best practices in combating trafficking in persons and to share the outcome with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and, where appropriate, with the other partners in the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, to further assist them in their efforts to combat the global threat of human trafficking;

6. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that have mandates related to transnational organized crime, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and to take advantage of their unique and comparative advantage;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* Economic and Social Council decision 2007/253 of 26 July 2007, according to which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its seventeenth session, in April 2008, would hold a thematic discussion on the aspects of violence against women that fall within its mandate, and encourages Member States to be appropriately represented and to participate actively in the thematic debate;

8. *Draws attention* to the emerging policy issues identified in the report of the Secretary-General, inter alia, urban crime, the sexual exploitation of children, fraud and identity theft, international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, and invites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to explore, within its mandate, ways and means of

[7] A/62/126.

[8] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/21.

addressing these issues, bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12 of 25 July 2007 and 2007/19 of 26 July 2007 on the strategy for the period 2008–2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

9. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to develop national and regional strategies, as appropriate, and other necessary measures, in cooperation with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, to address effectively transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and transnational trafficking in firearms, as well as corruption and terrorism;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against transnational organized crime, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in those areas;

11. *Urges* all Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and the Protocols thereto,[2] the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention)[3] and the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and encourages States parties to continue to provide full support to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including providing information to the Conferences regarding compliance with the treaties;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, as well as to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and invites Member States to provide the Office with appropriate resources for its mandate;

13. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals and handbooks developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

14. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient, stable and predictable funding for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with the high priority accorded to it and in accordance with the increasing demand for its services, in particular with regard to the provision of increased assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and those emerging from conflict, in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with its high priorities,

and to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, reflecting also emerging policy issues and possible responses.

77th plenary meeting
18 December 2007